issued September 14, 1999; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/071,717, filed May 1, 1998, entitled "Voice User Interface With Personality," now U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938, issued November 7, 2000. The applications for Serial Nos. 08/609,699, and 09/071,717 were co-pending at the time of filing of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/290,508, filed December 21, 1998, from which this application is a divisional. All of these applications are assigned to the present Assignee and are incorporated herein by this reference in their entirety.--

IN THE CLAIMS

[Please cancel Claims 1-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.]

[Please add new Claims 39-58 as follows.]

39.   (New) A remote system comprising:

a transceiver operable to receive speech input issued by a user, the speech input scanned by a local device for a keyword and forwarded by the local device if the keyword was detected; and

a processing component coupled to the transceiver and operable to recognize words in the speech input.

40.   (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the processing component is operable to generate a control signal for controlling the local device in response to the speech input.

41.   (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the processing component is operable to generate speech output for prompting or responding to the user.

42.   (New) The remote system of Claim 39 further comprising a connector operable to connect the remote system to a network for retrieval of information therefrom in response to a user request.

43.   (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the transceiver comprises a telephone line card.

44.   (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the processing component is operable to process feature parameters which have been extracted from the speech input by the local device.

45.   (New) The system of Claim 41 wherein the user and the local device engage in a series of speech inputs and responses.

46.   (New) A remote network for a distributed voice user interface comprising:

a transceiver for communicating with a local device, the transceiver operable to receive speech input issued by a user at the local device, the local device operable to perform a first level of speech recognition on the speech input; and

a processing facility coupled to the transceiver and having a plurality of physically distributed processing units, the processing facility operable to perform a second level of speech recognition on the speech input.

47.   (New) The remote network of Claim 46 wherein the processing facility is operable to receive the buffered speech input from the local device and to recognize words in the speech input.

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48.   (New) The distributed voice user interface system of Claim 46 wherein the local device comprises a first speech generation engine operable to generate speech output; and

wherein the remote network comprises a second speech generation engine operable to generate speech output.

49.   (New) The distributed voice user interface system of Claim 48 wherein the speech output generated by the second speech generation engine is consistent with speech output generated by the first speech generation engine.
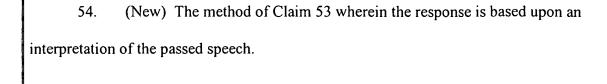
50.   (New) A method comprising:

scanning speech input issued by a user at a local device for a keyword;

initiating a connection between the local device and a remote system when the keyword is detected;

passing the speech input from the local device to the remote system for interpretation.

51.   (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising buffering the speech input at the local device.

52.   (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising interpreting the passed speech input at the remote system.

53.   (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising transmitting a response from the remote system to the local device.

54.   (New) The method of Claim 53 wherein the response is based upon an interpretation of the passed speech.

55.   (New) A method comprising:

scanning speech input issued by a user at a local device for a keyword;

initiating a connection between the local device and a remote system when the keyword is detected;

storing a portion of the speech input into a memory of the device; and

transmitting the stored portion of the speech input from the local device to the remote system.

56.   (New) The method of Claim 55 further comprising scanning the transmitted portion at the remote device for keywords.

57.   (New) The method of Claim 56 further comprising sending a control signal the local device in order to trigger the local device to generate speech.

58.   (New) The method of Claim 56 further comprising generating speech at the remote system and transmitting the speech to the local device.